

**RECEIVED**  
**CENTRAL FAX CENTER**  
**AUG 29 2007**

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/828,789  
Amendment After Final dated August 29, 2007  
Reply to Final Office Action of June 18, 2007

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently amended) A method of sintering a valve metal powder to form a porous bonded valve metal powder comprising sintering said valve metal powder in the presence of at least one iodine source to form said porous bonded valve metal powder, wherein said iodine source is a gas or a liquid.
2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein during said sintering, a valve metal-iodine compound temporarily forms.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said iodine source is a gas.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said iodine source is a liquid.
5. (Canceled)
6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said sintering occurs in a vacuum furnace or reactor.
7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said sintering occurs in a vacuum furnace that has an isolatable trap.
8. (Original) The method of claim 2, further comprising collecting at least a portion of said valve metal-iodine compound in an isolatable trap for reuse.
9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said valve metal powder is tantalum.
10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said valve metal powder is niobium.
11. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein said valve metal-iodine compound is tantalum iodide.
12. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein said valve metal-iodine compound is  $TaI_3$  or

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